
Revelation 18:14-24

Ch17 & 18 are the 2 most difficult chapters in the entire bible to study, understand, and/or teach. In Ch 17, the first part of is a vision of John; the second part is the angel's explanation. Ch 17 is the middle of the tribulation period. The real church is raptured, the antichrist is here, and a false one-world religion has been set up that raised from the old Roman Empire. This religion will have a power over the earth like no political empire has ever had before. Others will get jealous and take away the power of this false church. Satan will get his lethal injury, the world will think he's dead, he will raise from the dead in imitation of Christ, he will set up an abomination that says...you will worship the antichrist or die. When the antichrist comes on the scene after the church is raptured, he will set up economic security, solve world hunger, solve all men's problems. The world will love him. In Chapter 18, God is trying to tell us that there will be a system set up on this earth after the church is raptured. The antichrist says Christians are holding us down now, and as soon as they are off the face of this earth, then we can do what we really need to do. This economic system will have no reference to God whatsoever.

The Fall of Babylon, cont'd

Vs14: (review) all items mankind considers valuable will be gone. This list starts with gold and ends with the souls of man. These things will disappear quickly.

Vs15-16: the merchants will be afraid to go back into the city to get their possessions, lest they die too, so great is the destruction.

Vs17-18-19: the city is destroyed quickly, not necessarily one earth hour. Remember the World Trade Center? It went down so fast, thousands died; lots of riches were lost in less than an hour. The destruction of this new Babylon will be worse than that. People will lament the loss of people and material wealth. The shippers will stop and watch the destruction and smoke from fires rising in the air from far off.

Vs20: now we're seeing the perspective of the holy apostles and prophets from heaven, and they are all rejoicing for the vengeance from God. God has avenged them.

Vs21-22: an angel threw a big stone in the sea, like a mill stone, saying the violence in Babylon will be no more. God will totally rebuild the city His way.

Vs23-24: no more candles, no more brides and bridegrooms, etc. This is saying that things are going to change. For the merchants, the rich and the powerful were great, and by the sorceries were all the nations deceived. 'Sorcery' is where we get our word 'pharmacy' from this Greek word. It means 'drugs'. Christianity is not a religion; it's a way of life. Salvation is by grace and faith, not acts. We will not conquer the drug culture of this earth. Only God can stop and change it. The only way to help people change their addictions is by spiritual change, prayer from you and spiritual stirring from God on that person's heart. Satan knows exactly what your weakness is, and he will exploit it. The only way to get over it is through Christ.